



AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH
SERVICE

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✓ EAT
✓ WFS *WFS*
JE
NC

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

SOUTHERN REGION
OFFICE OF DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

November 11, 1975

Subject: Screwworm - Mexico

To: T. W. Edminster, Administrator

This is a summary of activities that have taken place since my June 3 letter regarding the above subject. Drs. Cooper and Snow went to Mexico City on June 24 in order to meet with Dr. Reta-Petersen, Sub-Secretary of the Mexican Department of Agriculture, and with the Mexican National Research Institute. Upon arrival at Dr. Reta's office they learned that he had resigned his position one hour earlier. However, they did follow through on the arrangements that he had made and visited with Dr. Carlos Arellano Sota, Director General, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Pecuarias. They had a very amiable meeting and Dr. Arellano indicated a strong desire to redirect the efforts of about 3 scientists from research on vampire bats to research on screwworm.

During their 2-day visit in Mexico City, Drs. Cooper and Snow learned that Dr. Pablo Zieroll Reyes was appointed as the new Sub-Secretary. Dr. Zieroll was, and presumably continues to be, a member of the Screwworm Commission.

At the request of Drs. Villasenor (Mexico) and Meyer and Werring (U.S.), Dr. Snow visited the Commission offices in Mexico City on October 8 in order to discuss ARS research in Mexico. From his prior conversations with Dr. Werring (Assistant to Dr. Meyer) he was under the impression that they would discuss specific research needs and visit Dr. Arellano's research facility at Palo Alto. However, Dr. Snow was surprised to learn of a complete change in climate since June. Dr. Villasenor informed him that he and Dr. Zieroll had reached a decision that ARS should have no contact with Investigaciones Pecuarias or any other Mexican agency (presumably Monterrey Tech with whom we have cooperated in the past). The stated reason was to prevent fragmentation of the screwworm effort within the 2 Mexican

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AREA OFFICE
WESLACO, TEXAS

agencies. Dr. Villasenor cited the agreement between the U. S. and Mexico and stated that the agreement gives the Commission control over all screwworm activities in Mexico.

As you know, we recently received an appropriation increase (\$204,000) for screwworm research in Mexico. Dr. Villasenor said that before we transfer anyone into Mexico we must submit a proposal to the Mexican delegation which states the areas requiring research and the number of scientists who would be needed to conduct the research. After approving the ARS plan, the Mexicans would hire appropriate counterparts for the American scientists, counterparts who would work directly for Dr. Villasenor. Salaries of the U. S. and Mexican scientists would be paid by their respective governments but all other expenditures (travel, per diem, equipment, supplies, and so forth) would be paid by the Commission. Dr. Meyer informed Dr. Snow that this would not eliminate direct ARS procurement of some items but that such expenditures could not conflict with Commission desires and could not be counted as a part of the U. S. monetary contribution. In addition, they feel that ARS must make funds available to the Commission to offset additional costs caused by the research effort. Presumably this would be done on an 80:20 ratio, the same way that APHIS contributes to the joint Mexican-American Program.

Dr. Snow summarized the Mexican requirements as follows:

1. All ARS scientists must have counterparts. This does not mean an American entomologist and Mexican chemist will be counterparts in developing an attractant. It means 2 people will do the identical job with all decisions made on a joint basis.

2. All proposed research, including detailed procedures and time tables, must be submitted in writing to the Commission for approval prior to execution. The Commission has the authority to refuse or require any research.

We are deeply disturbed by this turn of events. All of the ARS people associated with the screwworm program, and a good many APHIS people, feel that the problems encountered in the U. S. program will also be encountered in the joint

Mexican-American program, probably several fold. Hence, we must provide the best possible research support within the limits of available funds and personnel. Considering the fact that Dr. Villasenor feels that all screwworm activities must be under the direct control of the Commission and, given the kind of constraints outlined above, we are beginning to seriously question the advisability of trying to place any of our research people at the Tuxtla Gutierrez plant. In fact, both Dr. Snow and his Area Director, Mr. E. A. Taylor, recommend that we do not station anyone in Mexico. Dr. Snow recommends that all of our Mexico research be conducted by working out of our Mission laboratory. In addition to the problems involved in the constraints imposed by the Mexicans, Dr. Snow also offers several other reasons for this recommendation. These are set forth in the attachment to this letter.

Before making a decision on our future activities, we need to consider two more points. First, the increase for research in Mexico resulted from an item in our budget. Presumably we would have to inform the Appropriations Committee if the funds appear to be used in a manner inconsistent with the budget request. Second, Dr. Villasenor will still require that all proposed research be submitted in writing to the Commission for approval prior to initiation even if we want to conduct research in Mexico while working out of our Mission laboratory. Hence, he will probably still insist on counterpart scientists with ARS providing partial support (80:20) through the Commission. On the other hand, if we refuse to do any research unless the conditions are totally to our satisfaction, it seems to me that APHIS would have little choice but to employ research scientists. Even then, if the program runs into trouble due to problems that might be resolved through research, we would be open to severe criticism.

In all likelihood this subject will be brought up at the next Commission meeting. As we understand it, there was a meeting scheduled for this week but it had to be postponed due to a conflict in schedules. We do not know if it has been rescheduled.

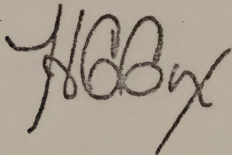
We suggest that the situation again be discussed with some or all of the American (APHIS) members of the Commission in an effort to seek their support. Other than Dr. Meyer,

T. W. Edminster

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who is stationed in Mexico, they are Assistant Secretary Feltner, Dr. Frank Mulhern, Dr. John Hejl and Dr. Robert Sharman (APHIS, retired). They are well aware of the problems that we have encountered in this matter but should probably be reminded that ARS was not involved in the joint agreement signed by the U. S. and Mexico and that our newly appropriated funds are already inadequate for support of 3 SMY in Mexico; hence, would not be available for use by the Commission.

We will be glad to try to provide additional information if you desire.



H C Cox
Associate Deputy Administrator

Enclosure

cc:

R. J. McCracken, Associate Administrator
T. B. Kinney, Jr., Assistant Administrator, NPS-LVS
D. A. Lindquist, NPS-LVS
✓ E. A. Taylor, Area Director
J. W. Snow, Research Leader

REASONS FOR CONDUCTING MEXICO SCREWORM RESEARCH
OUT OF MISSION LABORATORY AND
NOT STATIONING SCIENTISTS AT TUXTLA GUTIERREZ

1. Monetary: Operational costs for scientists in Mexico are greater than in the U. S. Dr. Meyer reports that it costs about \$40,000 to transfer a person to Mexico (6 months Spanish training, per diem, moving expenses). After arrival, housing allowance, schooling costs, and home leave elevate the annual cost by about \$15,000 per person.

2. Nature of research: Most of the needed research in Mexico is ecological and travel will be necessary, regardless of the base location. The area needing maximum effort is around Poza Rica, about 500 miles from Mission and 600 miles from Tuxtla Gutierrez. The city of Colima, another area requiring much research, is about 700 miles from Mission and 1,000 miles from Tuxtla Gutierrez. Mission recently purchased a 24-foot camper because of the need for facilities in isolated areas in Mexico. Additionally, more commercial travel routes are available in the Mission area than in the Tuxtla Gutierrez area.

3. Logistics: Much of the equipment used in research is specialized and repairs and service will be expensive or impossible to obtain in Tuxtla Gutierrez. Also, communications with the scientific community would be difficult. Currently we have research relationships with Texas A&M, the University of Texas, MRRL at Fargo, the Attractants Laboratory at Gainesville, and NASA. Their input will be easier to coordinate from the Mission facility. In addition, qualified support personnel are difficult to hire in Tuxtla Gutierrez.

4. Type of work at Tuxtla Gutierrez: Most of the problems at the factory will be operational and directly involved with production. Distribution and handling problems will be equally great at the 3 distribution centers. The Methods Development Sections from Tuxtla Gutierrez and Mission (APHIS) can best handle these problems.

5. Lack of research freedom: The counterpart system at the bench level and the lack of research freedom, i.e. "Refuse or require any research . . . detailed procedures

and timetables", will greatly impede meaningful research. Research direction by the Commission, individuals not trained in research, will not permit unbiased evaluation of the underlying causes of recent program difficulties. Research must go beyond the support of a sterile fly release program and deal with such subjects as population dynamics and dispersal and behavior of the fly in the total ecological area of the United States and Mexico. Only through this type of research can past problems be eliminated and future ones avoided.

This should be proposed to the Commission, making sure they understand our reasons. We should also assure them of our willingness to provide research in the areas they feel necessary and our equal willingness to abide by Commission rules of operation. Once Mission is closed, if necessary, ARS personnel can be assigned to Mexico. In this manner, equipment and other tools of research can be transferred from Mission at the same time as personnel.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
NATIONAL PROGRAM STAFF
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

November 28, 1975

Subject: Screwworm--Mexico, Memo from H C Cox to
T. W. Edminster, November 11, 1975

To: T. B. Kinney, Jr.
Assistant Administrator, L&VS

The subject memo has been discussed with Drs. Cox, Taylor, and Snow. It is quite obvious that there are problems associated with ARS conducting research in Mexico in support of the Mexico/USA screwworm eradication program. These problems include:

1. Legality of ARS conducting research in Mexico because ARS was not involved in the joint agreement signed by the U.S. and Mexico.
2. Shortage of funds to adequately support the Mexico/U.S. screwworm eradication program.
3. The problem of ARS providing 80% support for the Mexican counterpart scientists, as APHIS is doing under the present Mexico/U.S. agreement.
4. The inherent problem of working in a developing country, including counterparts. Possible exceptions are listed below:
 - (1) The legal problem of ARS working in Mexico probably should be solved by an amendment to the Mexico/U.S. agreement on screwworm eradication. Although this may appear troublesome to accomplish, the eradication program in Mexico is relatively expensive and will continue for several years, possibly five to eight.
 - (2) The funding situation for research support of the eradication program should be critically reviewed. If additional research support is required, then ARS should request it through normal budgetary channels. If the additional research support is needed immediately, then the appropriate moves should be made to obtain funds, personnel slots, and people as soon as possible, utilizing contingency funds or other readily available sources of support.
 - (3) ARS support (80%) of Mexican counterpart personnel should depend on the solution to Item 1 above, that is the amendment to the overall Mexico/U.S. agreement.

- (4) The problems of working in a developing country should not be underestimated. It must be appreciated that it will cost more money and take more time to conduct research in Mexico than in the U.S. To make the assumption that ARS scientists working in Mexico can do so as efficiently as they can in the U.S. will only result in frustrations, misunderstandings, poor morale, and probably poor quality research. In addition the ARS scientists working in Mexico, whether they are assigned to live in Mexico or work out of Mission, are guests in Mexico. A guest normally behaves in quite a different manner in his dealings with his host than a member of the family. Finally it should be understood by all ARS personnel involved in the Mexico/U.S. screwworm eradication program that this is a Mexican program. All of us are aware that the majority of the funds, trained scientists, problem solvers, and beneficiaries of the program reside in the U.S., but it is a Mexican program.

In a recent conversation with Dr. Cox I suggested that consideration be given to establishing a research committee to oversee research support for the eradication program. This committee could conceivably consist of three members, one each from APHIS, ARS, and Mexico, and could buffer the researchers from too much interference from the Mexican authorities.

Because of the international implications in the Mexico/U.S. screwworm eradication program consideration should be given to involving some of the organizations which are more familiar with international affairs and working in developing countries. Perhaps USAID could be involved in this project in the area of research support. Other cooperators which could be considered include the Rockefeller or Ford Foundations or the United Nations.

The question is not if but how ARS will provide research support for the screwworm eradication program.

I personally feel the counterpart system is not only workable but advantageous. It should be looked on as a practical mechanism to "train" Mexican scientists in the ARS method of doing research. This "training" should be the most valuable thing ARS leaves in Mexico after the screwworm has been eradicated. In addition, there is no doubt that Mexican scientists can teach ARS scientists a few things.

APR 7 1964
D. A. Lindquist
Staff Scientist
Insects Affecting Man and Animals

AGRICULTURAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DATE

REFERENCE SLIP

12-2-76

TO

J. W. Snow

Location/Research Leader
Mission

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ ACTION | ☐ NOTE AND RETURN |
| ☐ APPROVAL | ☐ PER PHONE CALL |
| ☐ AS REQUESTED | ☐ RECOMMENDATION |
| ☐ FOR COMMENT | ☐ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF |
| ☐ FOR INFORMATION | ☐ RETURNED |
| ☐ INITIALS | ☐ SEE ME |
| ☐ NOTE AND FILE | ☐ YOUR SIGNATURE |

REMARKS

Please call.

FROM

Edgar A Taylor

SOUTHERN REGION SUBTROPICAL TEXAS AREA
P. O. BOX 267, WESLACO, TEXAS 78596

GPO c48-10-83471 1

FORM AD-514 (8-64)

New Orleans, Louisiana 70153

GPO c48-10-83471 1

FORM AD-514 (8-64)

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR

DEC 3 1975

Administrator, SR

ve reviewed your memorandum of November 11,
ng research in support of the Mexico/U.S.
m. A copy of a memorandum containing

opportunity to discuss this matter with
d later this month.

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DEC 10 1975
AREA OFFICE
WESLACO, TEXAS

12/8

12/8

Dr. Cooper

*cc: Mr. Taylor
Mr. Sargent*

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☐ NC

12/8

~~Dr. Cooper~~
Dr. Cooper
cc: Mr. Layton
Dr. S. S. S.



AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH
SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR

DEC 3 1975

Subject: Screwworm--Mexico

To: H C Cox
Associate Deputy Administrator, SR

☒ EAT
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Drs. Kinney and Lindquist have reviewed your memorandum of November 11, 1975, regarding ARS conducting research in support of the Mexico/U.S. screwworm eradication program. A copy of a memorandum containing comments is attached.

Presumably, we will have an opportunity to discuss this matter with APHIS at a meeting to be held later this month.

Ralph J. McCracken

Ralph J. McCracken
Associate Administrator

Enclosure

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AREA OFFICE
WESLACO, TEXAS

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SCREWWORM MSSN

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ATTN: DON WILLIAMS

WITH YOUR AGREEMENT, I REQUEST THAT YOU DISCUSS WITH DR. WILLASENOR THE PLACEMENT OF MEXICO PERSONNEL WITH ARS IN MISSION. IF HE AGREES AND RESEARCH ORIENTED PERSONNEL ARE SELECTED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT, I BELIEVE THE COMMISSION, AS WELL AS ARS, WILL BENEFIT GREATLY. IF THIS IS POSSIBLE, I SUGGEST WE SET A TARGET DAY FOR THE ARRIVAL OF MEXICAN SCIENTISTS IN MISSION FOR COMETIME IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY. I HAVE ALREADY PREPARED LABORATORY AND OFFICE SPACE. IF DESIRABLE, I WILL DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF PER DIEM AND TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE DURING THE INITIAL STAGES WITH MR. TAYLOR AND DR. COOPER. I BELIEVE THE PLACEMENT OF MEXICAN PERSONNEL AT MISSION WILL ADD A NEW DIMENSION TO OUR PROGRAM THAT WE HAVE NEVER HAD BEFORE AND WILL DEMONSTRATE THE TYPE OF COOPERATION THAT IS NECESSARY TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN PROGRAM. I WILL APPRECIATE ANY HELP YOU CAN GIVE IN THIS MATTER.

CC: E.A. TAYLOR

A.W. COOPER

D.A. LINDQUIST

WENDALL SNOW

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SCREWWORM MSSN

FILE: SECTION Research
SUBJECT Screwworm
FOLDER Mexico Research

1775639CMAGBME

SCREWWORM MSSN

1-2-76 0915AM

ATTN DR N. MEYER

BELOW IS AN ARS PROPOSAL TO DETERMINE THE VALUE OF THE "CHEMICAL ATTRACTANT" FOR THE MEXICO PROGRAM. THE CHEMICAL HAS REPLACED LIVER AS THE STANDARD BAIT IN OUR MISSION WORK. THE DIFFERENT TERRAIN SITUATION OF MEXICO REQUIRE SOME EXPERIMENTATION BEFORE ITS VALUE TO THE COMMISSION CAN BE DETERMINED. WE WISH TO BEGIN WORK ON FEBRUARY 1, 1976 AND COMPLETE THE WORK BY MAY 1976.

IF YOU OR DR VILLASENOR NEEDS MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE PLAN TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH US AT THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 7.

J. WENDELL SNOW

COPY TO DR WILLIAMS

TITLE: FIELD EVALUATION OF THE SCREWWORM ATTRACTANT IN MEXICO.

PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER: JAMES R COPPEDGE, RESEARCH ENTOMOLOGIST.

INTRODUCTION. DURING 1973 AND 1974, A CHEMICAL MIXTURE ATTRACTIVE TO ADULT SCREWWORMS WAS DEVELOPED AT THE USDA ARS SCREWWORM RESEARCH LABORATORY IN MISSION TEXAS. THIS ATTRACTANT CONSISTED OF A MIXTURE OF 11 CHEMICALS WHICH WERE SELECTED BY FIELD SCREENING OF 32 CHEMICALS PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIAL OR ACTUAL PRODUCTS OF BACTERIAL DEGRADATION OF BLOOD.

IN THE INITIAL FIELD EVALUATIONS 1974, THIS ATTRACTANT CAPTURED MORE MALE FLIES, FEWER FEMALE FLIES, AND FEWER TOTAL FLIES THAN DECOMPOSING LIVER (THE STANDARD SCREWORM ATTRACTANT). DURING 1975, A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF RESEARCH EFFORT WAS APPLIED TO IMPROVING THE CHEMICAL ATTRACTANT; AND FROM THESE EFFORTS A NEW MIXTURE OF THE ATTRACTANT WAS DEVELOPED WHICH WAS MORE ATTRACTIVE TO MALE SCREWORMS AND AT LEAST AS ATTRACTIVE TO FEMALE SCREWORMS AS DECOMPOSING LIVER.

RECENT RESEARCH HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THE CHEMICAL ATTRACTANT CAN REPLACE LIVER AS A BAIT FOR SCREWORM TRAPS WITHOUT ANY LOSS OF EFFECTIVENESS. MOREOVER, THE CHEMICAL ATTRACTANT HAS MANY ADVANTAGES WHEN COMPARED WITH LIVER AS A SCREWORM ATTRACTANT INCLUDING: IT CAPTURES 5-10 TIMES MORE MALES; IT CAPTURES 5-10 TIMES FEWER TRASH FLIES; IT IS EASIER TO HANDLE, REQUIRES NO SPECIAL STORAGE, AND IS LESS EXPENSIVE; IT IS ATTRACTIVE TO FLIES IMMEDIATELY ON DEPLOYMENT AND DOES NOT REQUIRE AGING; AND IT IS ATTRACTIVE DURING PERIODS WHEN THE TEMPERATURE MAY BE TOO LOW FOR LIVER TO DECOMPOSE.

NEEDS FOR RESEARCH. THE ATTRACTANT HAS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL FOR USE IN SCREWORM ERADICATION PROGRAMS. TRAPS BAITED WITH THIS ATTRACTANT CAN BE USED FOR THE SURVEY AND DETECTION OF THIS PEST; THEY CAN BE USED AS A RESEARCH TOOL FOR INVESTIGATING THE POPULATION LEVELS OF STERILE AND WILD FLIES, FOR INVESTIGATING THE MIGRATION AND DISPERSAL OF STERILE AND WILD FLIES, AND FOR

MANY OTHER TYPES OF ECOLOGICAL STUDIES. ALSO, THIS ATTRACTANT WHEN COMBINED WITH AN INSECTICIDE SPIKED FEEDING ATTRACTANT HAS SHOWN POTENTIAL AS A CONTROL FOR THE SCREW WORM. THE SCREW WORM ATTRACTANT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE USED EXTENSIVELY IN THE SOUTHWESTERN SCREW WORM ERADICATION PROGRAM. POTENTIALLY IT CAN ALSO BE AN INVALUABLE AID IN THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN ERADICATION PROGRAM IN MEXICO. HOWEVER, 59 -53, IT HAS NOT BEEN EVALUATED UNDER THE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS OF THAT COUNTRY. IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH SUGGESTED HEREIN TO EVALUATE THE PRESENT MIXTURE OF THE ATTRACTANT IN SOME OF THE AREAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO. IF UPON COMPLETION OF THIS RESEARCH THIS ATTRACTANT PROVES EFFECTIVE, IT WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR USE IN THE MEXICO PROGRAM.

SEVEN LINES ABOVE ELIMINATE 50 -53. SHOULD READ "TO DATE,"

TEST DESIGN. THE PRESENT MOST EFFECTIVE CHEMICAL MIXTURE WILL BE COMPARED WITH DECOMPOSING BEEF LIVER. IN EACH TEST, PAIRS OF TRAPS (ONE BAITED WITH THE ATTRACTANT OR 1 KG BEEF LIVER AGED 1 WEEK AND COVERED WITH WATER. THE TRAPS WILL BE ROBBED 2-3 TIMES WEEKLY, THE CATCHES SORTED, AND THE NUMBER OF SCREW WORMS CAPTURED PER TRAP RECORDED. THE DURATION OF EACH TEST WILL BE FROM 2-4 WEEKS DEPENDING UPON THE NUMBER OF SCREW WORM FLIES CAPTURED.

RECORDED TABLE KEPT UP TO DATE AND WILL BE AVAILABLE IN REPORT THIS TEST SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN AT LEAST 3 DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT SHOULD LINE ABOVE GARBBALED ON THIS MACHINE: SHOULD REACFORM SHOULD READ: IN REPORT FORM AFTER EACH TEST.

AREAS OF MEXICO. THE AREAS AROUND TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, TAMPICO AND GUAYMAS ARE SUGGESTED. THE EXACT SITES OF THE 3 TESTS WILL BE SELECTED AFTER CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF THE JOINT MAXUVCAN-AMERICAN COMMISSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE JOINT MAXUVCAN-AMERICAN SCREWORM COMMISSION WITH THE

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF MEXICO AND THE INCIDENCE OF SCREWORMS IN EACH AREA.

TEST DATES. THE TESTS SHOULD BE INITIATED ABOUT FEBRUARY 1, 1975 AND COMPLETED BEFORE MAY 1976. CORRECTION FEBRUARY 1, 1976. THE TEST IN THE GUAYMAS AREA MAY HAVE TO BE REPEATED DURING OCTOBER 1976 IF SUFFICIENT FLIES CANNOT BE CAPTURED IN THE SPRING FOR A VALID COMPARISON.

PERSONNEL. THESE STUDIES WILL BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR PREVIOUSLY INDICATED. HE WILL BE ASSISTED BY ONE TECHNICIAN AND ONE OR MORE COUNTERPARTS IF THEY ARE ASSIGNED BY THE COMMISSION.

THIS RESEARCH WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION AND THEIR ASSISTANCE IN THE SELECTION OF SITES AND MAKING RANCHER CONTACTS IS SOLICITED.

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SCREWORM MSSN

SCREWWORM MSSN

ATTENTION NORVAN L. MEYER

ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMISSION, NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN. IF YOU WANT A STRAIN WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR, THEN WE MUST GET TO WORK.

COMMISSION BLESSING, SUPPORT, AND PARTICIPATION ARE SOLICITED IN
THIS WORK.

CC: DON WILLIAMS

1-2-76

TITLE: DEVELOPMENT OF A STRAIN FOR THE TUXTLA GUTIERREZ FACTORY.

OBJECTIVE: TO AUGMENT THE BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE GENETICAL AND BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SCREWORM FLIES IN NORTHERN AND CENTRAL MEXICO AND TO BEGIN ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE

EXISTENCE OF BIOTYPES AMONG SCREWORM POPULATIONS IN MEXICO. NATIVE POPULATIONS OF DIFFERENT ECOLOGICAL AREAS WILL BE

SAMPLED BY MANUAL COLLECTION AND TRAPPING. VIABLE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE ARS FACILITY IN MISSION, TEXAS, FOR COLONIZATION AND SUBSEQUENT GENETICAL AND BEHAVIORAL STUDIES

COLONIES ORIGINATING FROM EACH COLLECTION AREA WILL BE MAINTAINED SEPARATELY AND WILL PROVIDE THE SOURCE FOR STRAINS TO BE USED IN THE TUXTLA GUTIERREZ FACTORY.

ARS PERSONNEL: DR. C. J. WHITTEN AND SUPPORTING TECHNICIANS.

LOCATION: TAMAULIPAS, NUEVO LEON, COAHUILA, CHIHUAHUA, SONORA, DURANGO AND SINALOA.

PROCEDURES: THE WORK IS PROPOSED TO BEGIN MARCH 1, 1976, WITH 6 TRIPS OF 1-4 WEEKS EACH, THROUGH JUNE, 1976. EGG MASSES WILL BE OBTAINED BY COLLECTING ADULTS IN THE NEW SCREWORM ATTRACTANT (CALLED SW-LURE-2) AND EGGING IN THE TRAILER. SEVERAL SHEEP WILL BE FERRIED WITH THE TRAILER, AND EGG MASSES COLLECTED FROM WOUNDS FROM THOSE ANIMALS. REARING WILL BE DONE IN THE TRAILER UNTIL RETURNING TO MISSION. A REPORT OF RESULTS FOLLOWING EACH TRIP WILL BE SENT TO THE COMMISSION.♦

1775639CMAGBME

SCREWORM MSSN

M

REF MAV/034

January 29, 1976

TO: Dr. Norman L. Meyer

SUBJECT: Considerations for carrying out proposed testing by ARS to obtain a new variety of screwworm fly for the plant at Tuxtla Gtz., Chis., and to test the chemical attractant (SW-LURE-2) for trapping screwworm flies.

In regard to the proposal by Dr. J. Wendell Snow from ARS dated January 2, 1976, requesting acceptance and collaboration of the Commission for the purpose of carrying out two entomological tests in our country; the first to obtain a new variety of screwworm fly to be used in the plant at Tuxtla Gtz., Chis., and the second to test the efficacy of the new chemical attractant (SW-LURE-2) with which screwworm adult flies will be trapped, I recommend that these entomological tests be carried out under the following conditions:

1. I remind you that for the Government of Mexico, you are the only one responsible for the tests related to screwworm carried out in Mexico by American personnel. Therefore, all communications and projects must be discussed by the Directors and approved before they are carried out.
2. Due to facility of communication between the U.S. and the central office in Mexico, the Directors will be the coordinators of the tests. They will give instructions to the Methods Development Division, assisted by the entomologists who are advisers to the Directors.
3. It is necessary that a list of all the American personnel to visit Mexico for these investigations be sent to us, as well as the position they hold, for the purpose of accompanying them during their trips to assist them in dealing with the people in the field and avoiding misunderstandings.
4. The Directors should be informed one week in advance of the visit to Mexico of any American related with the tests.
5. The counterpart system will be used, and the counterparts will send a joint weekly report which will basically consist of the daily results of the tests and will be sent to the Directors with copy to Methods Development and to the entomologists.
6. The areas for collecting egg masses will be those which the entomologists indicated to us (Northern and Central regions of Veracruz and Sinaloa, as well as the Northern region of Durango).
7. The initiation dates of each test should be approved by signature of the Directors before any related activity is begun.
8. The specific sites of Tampico, Tamps., Guaymas, Son., and Tuxtla Gtz., Chis. where the traps will be placed with the above-mentioned chemical attractant, will be discussed by the personnel from Methods Development, the entomologists, and Field Operations.

9. Any change in routine activities should be previously notified to the Directors in writing.

10. Dr. Sergio Martinez will be the counterpart of Dr. R. Coppedge and Ent. J. Manuel Solis will be the counterpart of Dr. C.J. Whitten, and will provide orientation and facilities to the technicians during their stay in Mexico.

11. Expenses of personnel for per diem, vehicles, equipment and material will be covered by the institution to which they belong: The Commission, for personnel from Methods Development and the entomologists; and ARS for American personnel not connected with the Commission.

In order to begin the two tests mentioned, the first step is the preparation of an agreement to be signed by the Directors which describes in detail the activities which will be carried out, the places and dates, as well as a list of personnel involved.

(s)

Dr. Marco A. Villaseñor
Director

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Screwworm Research Laboratory

P. O. Box 986
Mission, Texas 78572

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FEB 11 1976

AREA OFFICE
WESLACO, TEXAS

February 10, 1976

Subject: Report of the Joint Mexico-American Screwworm
Eradication Commission Meeting

To: E. A. Taylor
Area Director

I attended the meeting of the Joint Commission held in Mexico City and Tuxtla-Gutierrez from February 2 through 5, 1976. Activities consisted of an American section pre-meeting, a tour of the plant site at Tuxtla-Gutierrez, and the combined meeting.

The plant is about 92% complete and is expected to be finished by July 1, 1976. Some purchase of equipment still remains to be done, but this is also expected to be completed by the July date. The principal remaining items are:

1. The larval rearing trays
2. The new sawdust dispenser system
3. The monorail system
4. The irradiators
5. The centrifuges.

The warehouse has a roof area of about one football field, and the factory has an area of about three. It is the largest building in the state of Chiapas and is a very impressive structure. A recent earthquake did considerable damage to the structure.

This was perhaps the best Commission meeting I have attended. Early in the session, the planned agenda was scrapped and discussions followed on specific problems such as completion date, the dedication, release techniques, and research. AS you know, a recent shift in Mexican personnel has resulted in three new commissioners. The attitude seems to have changed with the group.

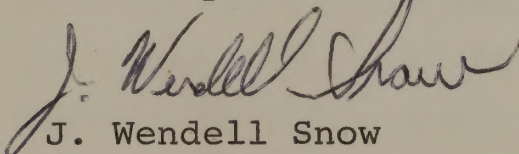
In our pre-meeting, the problems of research in Mexico and the restrictions placed on us by Dr. Villasenor were

discussed. All recognized the problem and wished to place it before the Commission in the presence of Dr. Zieroll, the new Sub-secretary of Agriculture. When I spoke, I was asked to outline priority items of research. These were cited as:

1. Testing the new attractant (Swormlure-2)
2. Developing a strain for the Mexico factory
3. The study of the possibility of biotypes in Mexico
4. Determining the interaction of the screwworm with other Cochliomyia species in southern Mexico.

The first two items were submitted in a proposal to Dr. Villasenor about two weeks prior to the meeting. These proposals are attached, as well as his reply which I received while in Tuxtla Gutierrez.

After considerable discussion, both delegations agreed that research should move forward at the earliest possible time. Dr. Villasenor assured flexibility to make on the spot research decisions such as trap numbers, locations, etc. I agreed to furnish weekly reports of activity and work through the counterpart system. In conclusion, the research attitude appears better in Mexico. Certainly, we will know after these two projects get under way. I have been requested to visit Mexico City during the week beginning February 16 to finalize details of both projects.



J. Wendell Snow
Research Leader

2-1976

RECEIVED

DIRECTOR:

DR. MARCO ANTONIO VILLASEROR

TEL. 531-65-96

CO-DIRECTOR:

DR. MORVAN L. MEYER

TEL. 531-65-99

Trans. from Spanish

February 20, 1976

ENTOMOLOGICAL TESTS

- A. The Commission Directors hereby state their agreement to carry out two entomological tests in the Republic of Mexico, with the technical and scientific assistance of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The above-mentioned tests will have the following objectives:

To prove the effectiveness of a new chemical attractant for screw-worm flies (Sw-Lure 2) in a tropical environment.

To obtain a new strain of *cochliomyia hominivorax* flies for the plant in Tuxtla Gtz., Chiapas.

- B. Drs. Moises Vargas and Billie G. Hightower, as representatives of the Directors, will be in charge of coordinating all activities related to these tests.
- C. Drs. Sergio Martinez and James Coppedge will be in charge of field activities for testing the chemical attractant, and Dr. C.J. Whitten and Ent. Jose Solis will be in charge of field work necessary to obtain the new strain.
- D. ARS will provide the vehicles, including a mobile laboratory, and necessary materials for these tests.

E. The following technical personnel from ARS will visit Mexico for the purpose of these tests:

Dr. James Coppedge

Dr. C.J. Whitten

Dr. Wendell Snow

Dr. Frank Guillot

Technicians - Mr. Jose Garcia, Roberto Ramirez, John Turner,
Francisco Gonzales and Bobby Handke

F. The chemical attractant (Sw-Lure 2) will be tested in the Tuxpan-Misantla area of Veracruz. Thirty traps will be placed in 15 different locations. The design will consist of paired liver-baited and Sw-Lure 2-baited traps at each location. The 2 traps at each location will be separated by a distance of no more than 50 to 100 meters.

G. The general procedure for the development of a new strain of screwworm flies will consist of 2 alternatives as follows:

a) The progeny of the flies collected alive during the evaluation of the chemical attractant (Sw-Lure 2) may be reared in cages on artificial medium or on laboratory animals in a mobile laboratory that will be stationed in the test area. Some of the captured female flies will be transported to Mission, Texas, for subsequent eggging and rearing at the ARS laboratory.

b) In the event that it is not possible to collect sufficient numbers of live screwworm flies from the traps, egg masses will be collected from artificially infested test animals in corrals in the field. These animals, purchased for this purpose by ARS, will be located in 2 to 4 different corrals, and they will be inspected daily by project technicians. In this alternative method, the larvae from the egg masses collected from the infested animals will be reared in the

mobile laboratory, and the pupae will be sent to the Mission laboratory.

- H. These tests will be conducted in the State of Veracruz in the area between Tuxpan and Misantla. Headquarters for the projects will be in Tuxpan, Veracruz.
- I. These tests will have a maximum duration of 5 months, beginning on March 8 and terminating on May 31, 1976.
- J. The places chosen for the locations of the traps are as follows:

Municipio of Tihuatlan

Rancho "El Mariscal"

Rancho "San Antonio"

Rancho "Valle de Oro"

Municipio of Coatzacoatlán

Rancho "Finca Rosita"

Municipio of Cazonas

Rancho "El Salvador"

Rancho "El Palmar"

Municipio of Papantla

Rancho "El Chote"

Rancho "El Raudal"

Rancho "Tlaluanapa"

The other 6 places will be brought up later.

- K. These projects will be conducted by the counterpart system. A joint weekly report, consisting basically of daily test results, will be submitted to the Commission. Individual weekly progress reports will be submitted in instances when counterparts are not working jointly in the test area or phases of the projects are being conducted outside Mexico.

A final report will be submitted when these tests are terminated.

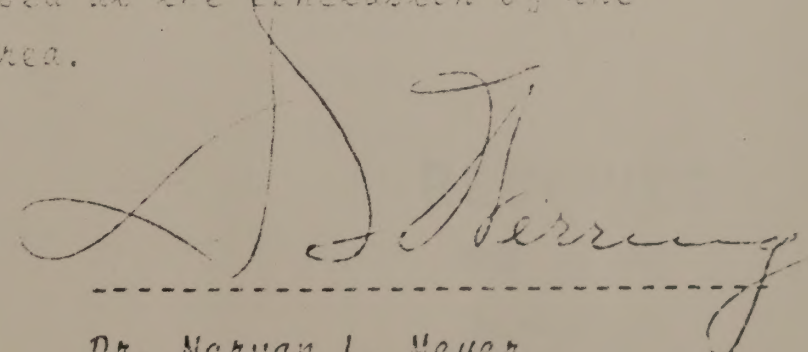
- L. The Directors of the Mexican-American Commission for the Eradication of Screwworm Flies must be informed 1 week in advance of the visit of any American who plans to work in or inspect the test area.

- H. The costs incurred in these projects for travel, equipment, and supplies will be paid by the institution whose personnel incur such expenses. This is to say that the Commission will pay the expenses of Methods Development and Entomology Staff personnel, and ARS will pay the expenses incurred by all American personnel who are not members of the Commission.
- I. Any important changes that would alter the activities outlined in this agreement should be submitted in writing to the coordinators of these projects (Drs. Vargas and Hightower) prior to the execution of such changes.
- J. The activities involved in the collection of egg masses by Commission personnel in southern Mexico will not be administratively involved in the projects outlined in this agreement.

P O S S I B I L I T I E S

1. The following 4 areas have been selected as future test sites for further testing of Sw-Lure 2 and/or collections of strains of flies: area between Culiacan and Mazatlan, Sinaloa; area around Guadalupe Victoria, Durango; area around Satevo, Chihuahua; area around Muzquiz, Coahuila.
2. The initiation of tests in the above-mentioned areas will depend on the results obtained in the first test area around Tuxpan-Misantla, Veracruz.
3. The approval for additional test areas, as well as the technical, administrative, and personnel requirements for further tests in other environments will be discussed at the conclusion of the projects in the Tuxpan-Misantla area.


Dr. Marco A. Villaseñor
Director


Dr. Norvan L. Meyer
Co-Director

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Screwworm Research Laboratory
P. O. Box 986
Mission, Texas 78572

✓ EAT *[initials]*
✓ WFS
JE *[initials]*
NC

Subject: Entomological test at Tuxpan, Veracruz 1976,
First Weekly Report

March 2, 1976

To: Dr. Marco Antonio Villaseñor G.

Subject: Work in Mexico

To: E. A. Taylor, Area Director
Subtropical Texas Area

Dr. Huisa Vargas Teran

As you know, I was in Mexico City during February 18-20 to discuss and make plans for the development of a new strain and to evaluate Swormlure.

Attached is a copy of a document between the American and Mexico Sections regarding this work. At this point, it appears that the attitude concerning research work in Mexico has changed. We are scheduled to begin this work on March 8.

[Signature]
J. Wendell Snow
Research Leader

Enclosures

cc Dr. Lindquist

On Wednesday, March 10, thirty traps were placed on the following nine ranches:

Rancho El Mariscal	1 site	2 traps
Rancho San Juan	2 sites	4 traps
Rancho Valle de Oro	2 sites	4 traps
Rancho El Palmar	2 sites	4 traps
Rancho San Salvador	1 site	2 traps
Rancho Tishuanapa	2 sites	4 traps

RECEIVED

MAR 4 1976

AREA OFFICE
WESLACO, TEXAS

COMISION MEXICO-AMERICANA PARA LA ERRADICACION
DEL GUSANO BARRENADOR DEL GANADO

Subject: Entomological test at Tuxpan, Veracruz 1976,
First Weekly Report

To: Dr. Marco Antonio Villasenor G.
Director
Dr. Norvan Meyer
Co-Director
Dr. Moises Vargas Teran
Staff Entomologist
Dr. Bille G. Hightower
Staff Entomologist

On Monday, March 8, 1976, ARS personnel (James R. Coppedge, C. James Whitten, and Jose J. Garcia) entered Mexico and traveled to Tampico, Tamps.

On Tuesday, March 9, ARS personnel met Comision personnel Sergio M Martinez and Manuel Solis at the Distribution Center at Tampico. The group traveled to Tuxpan, Veracruz where Amador Zapata was waiting. Mr. Zapata had already contacted nine reanchers and had obtained permission to place traps on their properties. The ARS portable Laboratory was parked at the Pathological Laboratory at Tuxpan.

On Wednesday, March 10, thirty traps were placed on the following nine ranches:

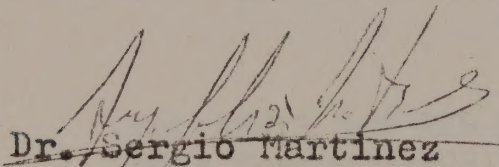
Rancho El Mariscal	1 site	2 traps
Rancho San Roman	2 sites	4 traps
Rancho Valle de Oro	2 sites	4 traps
Rancho El Palmar	2 sites	4 traps
Rancho San Salvador	1 site	2 traps
Rancho Tlahuanapa	2 sites	4 traps

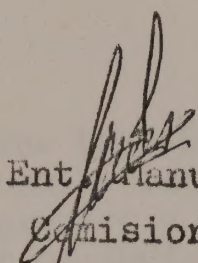
Finca Nuevo Rosita	2 sites	4 traps
Rancho El Chote	1 site	2 traps
Rancho El Raudal	2 sites	4 traps.

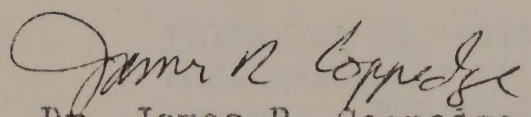
At each site one trap was baited with Swormlure-2 and one trap with liver. The traps will be rotated daily.

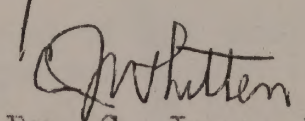
On Thursday, March 11, the traps were inspected and rotated--no screwworm flies were caught.

On Friday, March 12, the traps were inspected and rotated--no screwworm flies were caught.


Dr. Sergio Martinez
Comision


Ent. Manuel Solis V.
Comision


Dr. James R. Coppedge
ARS


Dr. C. James Whitten
ARS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

VETERINARY SERVICES

SCREWORM ERADICATION PROGRAM

POST OFFICE BOX 969

MISSION, TEXAS 78572

Subject: Screwworm Eradication Data
System Evaluation

March 17, 1976

To: Dr. F. J. Mulhern
Administrator, APHIS, USDA
Washington, D. C. 20250

The APHIS and ARS portion of the USDA/NASA Screwworm Eradication Data System (SEDS) Joint Evaluation Team (JET) met at Mission, Texas, on March 16, 1976, to prepare a draft of a final report. The JET and subgroups have met periodically at Washington, NASA Houston, and Mission, Texas, since August 1975 to evaluate the SEDS system.

Following the editing and typing of the draft report, it will be made available to the NASA representatives for their review and comment. The finalized report will be available for you about May 15, 1976.

On October 1, 1975, the JET agreed to "evaluate the SEDS system on the basis of its ability to provide a numerical estimate of the screwworm growth potential for specific geographic areas for a specific time interval and date." The JET charter was expanded by your letter to Mr. Charles W. Mathews, Associate Administrator for Applications NASA, dated October 14, 1975.

The JET initially organized into two subgroups, Product Evaluation and Cost Benefit/Effectiveness. Careful study has revealed SEDS to be non-operational in terms of meeting needs of the Screwworm Eradication Program. It became apparent that major deficiencies existed in the SEDS. Therefore, an emphasis was placed on critically evaluating the SEDS products. This evaluation by the Product Evaluation subgroup, substantiated that the SEDS was not only deficient, but unsound for use as a predictor of screwworm growth potential. These findings are documented in the report that will follow.

The Cost Benefit/Effectiveness subgroup formulated a strategy for analyzing relevant data to be used in determining the economic

feasibility for adopting the SEDS. Preliminary studies were undertaken and the findings are also included in the report that will follow. This subgroup ceased functioning as an independent group when it became evident that SEDS was not operational.

Although the JET was charged with evaluating Spring and Fall data from 1975 and real time data for Spring 1976, it was mutually understood that evaluation of all Fall data and real time Spring data would be terminated.

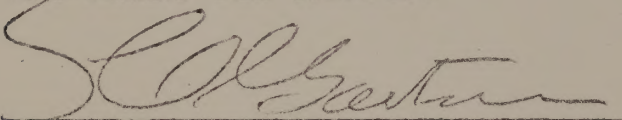
While we are favorably impressed with the state of the art of remote sensing technology, our findings show that:

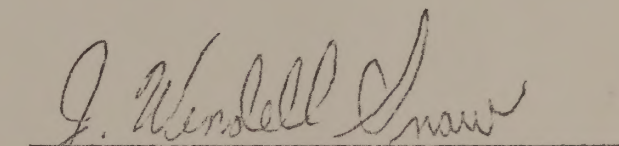
1. The temperature components of the SEDS currently provides no usable information for the screwworm program.
2. The SEDS growth potential model is not operational.

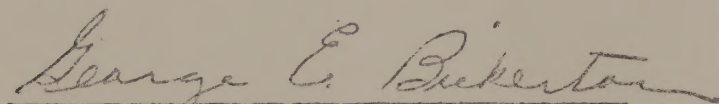
Numerous attempts by NASA and their contractors to eliminate problems within the system have been unsuccessful. We believe this is understandable since in our opinion the system is based on some erroneous assumptions and unsound statistical procedures.

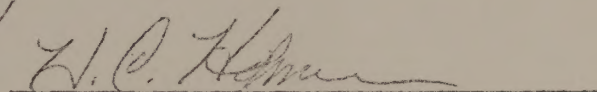
In view of the above findings, we recommend that the JET be dissolved and that SEDS be either discontinued or placed in a research mode.

ARS-APHIS JET Members


S. C. Gartman, Chairman


J. Wendell Snow


George E. Bickerton


H. C. Hoffmann

cc:

Mr. T. W. Edminster, Mr. C. W. Mathews, Mr. Gene Rice, Dr. J. M. Hejl

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Screwworm Research Laboratory

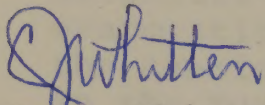
P. O. Box 986
Mission, Texas 78572

March 19, 1976

Subject: Entomological Tests at Tuxpan, Veracruz, 1976:
Strain Development

To: Dr. Marco Antonio Villasenor G., Director
Dr. Norvan Meyer, Co-Director
Dr. Moises Vargas Teran, Staff Entomologist
Dr. Billie G. Hightower, Staff Entomologist

There was no activity in strain development for the week
March 13-19.



C. J. Whitten
Research Entomologist

cc J. Wendell Snow
Ent. Manuel Solis

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Screwworm Research Laboratory

P. O. Box 986
Mission, Texas 78572

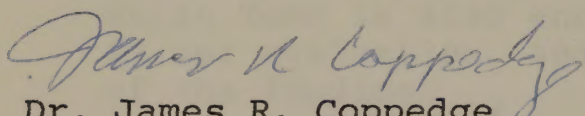
March 19, 1976

Subject: Entomological Test at Tuxpan, Veracruz, 1976:
Swormlure Evaluation, March 13-19, 1976.

To: Dr. Marco Antonio Villasenor G., Director
Dr. Norvan Meyer, Co-Director
Dr. Moises Vargas Teran, Staff Entomologist
Dr. Billie G. Hightower, Staff Entomologist

From Saturday, March 13, until Tuesday, March 16, the traps were inspected daily. No screwworm flies were captured with either liver or Swormlure-2. Fresh Swormlure-2 was added to the appropriate traps on Tuesday, March 15. Two wicks were used per bottle of Swormlure-2 instead of the usual one to increase its evaporation rate. Visual examinations indicate that the chemical attractant is not evaporating as rapidly in the Tuxpan area as it usually does in South Texas.

On Tuesday afternoon, March 16, ARS personnel (James R. Coppedge, C. James Whitten, and Jose J. Garcia) and Dr. Sergio M. Martinez of the Commission left Tuxpan and travelled to Tampico. On Wednesday, March 17, ARS personnel left Tampico and travelled to Mission, Texas. There was no research activity in Mexico after Wednesday, March 17.



Dr. James R. Coppedge
Research Entomologist, ARS

cc Dr. J. Wendell Snow
Dr. Sergio Martinez

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Screwworm Research Laboratory
P. O. Box 986
Mission, Texas 78572

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March 22, 1976

Subject: Mexico and NASA

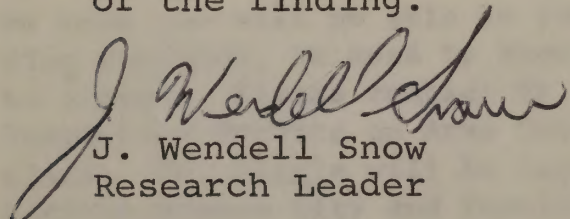
To: E. A. Taylor, Area Director
Subtropical Texas Area

Enclosed are copies of weekly reports submitted by Drs. Coppedge and Whitten for their work in Mexico. Unfortunately, they were unable to capture flies in traps because of the very low population and decreased effectiveness of Swormlure. Apparently, the high humidity, no wind situation of Veracruz prevents good evaporation of Swormlure, and it does not work very well. However, this is a temporary situation, and we will work it out.

The good thing is that we had no difficulties in connection with the counterparts.

Drs. Coppedge and Whitten are scheduled to return next week and place sheep pens in operation.

A letter drafted by the USDA part of the Joint Evaluation Team is also enclosed. We are almost complete in our evaluation, and the letter gives an indication of the finding.


J. Wendell Snow
Research Leader

Enclosures

cc Dr. Lindquist

RECEIVED

MAR 23 1976

AREA OFFICE
WESLACO, TEXAS



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

→ To: Mr Taylor, AD
Weslaco, TX
For your info

JUL 16 1976

Lucy
m

Dr. A. W. Cooper
Deputy Administrator
USDA-ARS-Southern Region
P.O. Box 53326
New Orleans, LA 70153

Dear Dr. Cooper:

As you know, the United States and Mexico have been cooperating for many years to eradicate screwworms--a deadly pest of all warmblooded animals--from the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. I believe we are on the verge of a real breakthrough and want you to be part of it.

I would like to invite you to join the President of Mexico, members of the Joint Mexico-U.S. Commission to Eradicate Screwworms, officials of both countries and me in dedicating a new screwworm eradication facility at Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State, Mexico, on August 25, 1976.

As you may recall, Congress paved the way for expanding this joint eradication effort in 1966 by amending existing legislation to authorize international cooperation. The Secretaries of Agriculture of the United States and Mexico subsequently signed an agreement establishing a Joint Mexico-U.S. Commission for the Eradication of Screwworms. The Commission's goal is to eradicate screwworms north and west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in southern Mexico--freeing not only Mexico from this costly pest but the United States as well. The first vitally important step toward this goal has been reached with the completion of construction of the new sterile fly production plant in Tuxtla Gutierrez. This plant is designed to rear and sexually sterilize over 300 million screwworm flies each week.

We hope you will be able to join us in dedicating this facility. For planning purposes, we need to know by July 23 if your schedule will permit you to attend. Please contact Mr. Larry Slagle of our Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on Area Code (202) 447-2529 and advise him of your plans. Mr. Slagle will be happy to coordinate travel arrangements for you between Mexico City and Tuxtla Gutierrez. He will also arrange any lodging reservations you may desire in either Mexico City or Tuxtla Gutierrez.

Sincerely,

Earl L. Butz

EARL L. BUTZ
Secretary

FILE: SECTION Research
SUBJECT Screwworm
FOLDER Mexico Research

JUL 28 11 09 AM '76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
NATIONAL PROGRAM STAFF
Beltsville, MD 20705

July 28, 1976

1	Cooper <i>aw</i>
2	Kendrick
3	Swanson
4	Raine
	Monday
5	
6	

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Subject: Possible Candidates for Assignment to
Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico for Ecological
Research on Screwworm Populations in Mexico

To: T. B. Kinney, Jr., Washington, DC
A. W. Cooper, New Orleans, LA

As per our discussion on 26 July, I have reviewed the MOHR printout of scientists working in NRP 20480 and 20850. Based on the MOHR printout, training and experience in ecology, and my personal evaluation, the following six individuals should be considered for the subject assignment:

Dr. Richard E. Gingrich, Kerrville, Texas (presently in
Vienna, Austria)

Dr. Robert L. Harris, College Station, Texas

Dr. Sidney E. Kunz, College Station, Texas

Dr. Richard S. Patterson, Gainesville, Florida

Dr. Richard H. Roberts, Gainesville, Florida

Dr. David F. Williams, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Perhaps Dr. Williams is the most likely candidate since he is in a 3-year temporary position on St. Croix; his termination date is about August 1977. Dr. Gingrich will return from Vienna about March 1977.

Drs. Kunz and Patterson have had foreign assignments of 2 years each; Drs. Roberts and Kunz are good ecologists; Dr. Harris is a very practical field entomologist.

Possible candidates working in other NRP's which come to mind include Mr. Jim Raulston (Brownsville, Texas) and Dr. Dan Moreno (Riverside, California). There are undoubtedly others which could be identified with more thought or a thorough search.

I have not discussed this with Dr. J. Wendell Snow, RL for screwworm research, as he is in Jamaica. When he returns next week I will contact him.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

8-2
gsc
MZ
D. A. Lindquist
Staff Scientist
Livestock & Veterinary Sciences



AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH
SERVICE

701 LOYOLA AVENUE
P.O. BOX 53326
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70153

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

SOUTHERN REGION
OFFICE OF DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

August 2, 1976

Subject: Possibility of Assigning One or More
Scientists to Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico,
for Ecological Research on Screwworm
Populations in Mexico

To: E. A. Taylor, AD, Weslaco, Texas

As I discussed with you, Don Williams of APHIS is quite anxious for ARS to station one or two scientists in Mexico to work on research related to the screwworm program as soon as possible. Kinney, Lindquist, and I discussed this possibility with John Hejl, APHIS, in Washington recently. We all feel that it would be highly desirable to assign one or two scientists to Mexico if we can work out the financial arrangement.

If we can find more funding for the program, Lindquist has suggested the people named in his enclosed letter dated July 28. When Snow returns, I would appreciate your discussing possibilities with him and get in touch with Lindquist and me.

A. W. Cooper
A. W. Cooper
Deputy Administrator

cc:

T. B. Kinney, AA, Wash, DC
D. A. Lindquist, NPS, Beltsville, MD

FILE: SECTION Research
SUBJECT Screwworm
FOLDER Mexico Research

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Screwworm Research Laboratory
P. O. Box 986
Mission, Texas 78572

August 6, 1976

Subject: Dedication - Tuxtla-Gutierrez

To: E. A. Taylor, Area Director
Subtropical Texas Area

The following are potential questions and answers for the Secretary regarding screwworm research. Program questions have been omitted since these should be answered by the action agency.

(1) What are the most important ARS accomplishments?

(a) Attractant - Swormlure-2 has been developed and is the standard system used by APHIS in all their survey work. (b) Flowering plants have been shown attractive to screwworm flies and demonstrated as the feeding and mating site. (c) The radiation dosage has been reduced 20% and therefore competitiveness improved. (d) Cottage cheese, an expensive ingredient used in the larval diet, has been shown to be unnecessary. It can be replaced with the cheaper dried blood and ^{has} the potential for a 0.5 million annual saving. (e) The new strain, 009, was developed by ARS and is given credit for the higher levels of sterility found in South Texas.

(2) When is ARS transferring scientists to Mexico?

The time is right to send at least two researchers to Mexico. The transfer of scientists to Mexico will meet the research needs for the new factory and Southern Mexico. Texas and Northern Mexico can be supported better thru the Mission location.

(3) Where in Mexico will researchers be located?

The researchers should be based on the plant site at Tuxtla-Gutierrez. Some research space is needed within the factory, but a separate research facility is also desirable.

(4) When will research be terminated at Mission?

When the Mission Factory closes (when the five Northern Mexico states are free of screwworms) all research activities should be transferred from Mission.

FILE: SECTION Research
SUBJECT Screwworm
FOLDER: Mexico Research

(5) What are the major research efforts currently under way?

(a) The development of Swormlure-2 as an additive control procedure has high priority. Most of the recent problems in screwworm control have resulted from higher natural populations. Swormlure-2 when applied with an insecticide has the potential to drastically reduce the natural population (mostly females are killed). An evaluation of the system has begun in the isolated island situation of Curacao.

(b) Biology and ecology - The screwworm has not been studied in the diverse ecological situations of Mexico. Of particular concern is the behavior of the fly in canyons and higher altitudes. The possibility of biotypes must also be considered.

(c) The effects of various diet ingredients on the performance of adults. In addition, this work will include the evaluation of new protein sources that offer price or supply advantages. Also, methods will be developed to insure continuous quality of reared insects.

(d) Isolate and identify the sex pheromone. The identification of the attractant will greatly aid our entire research program from the standpoint of survey and control. Sex pheromones offer the advantage of species specificity and are usually non-hazardous.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Screwworm Research Laboratory
P. O. Box 986
Mission, Texas 78572

August 6, 1976

Subject: Dedication - Tuxtla-Gutierrez

To: E. A. Taylor, Area Director
Subtropical Texas Area

The following are potential questions and answers for the Secretary regarding screwworm research. Program questions have been omitted since these should be answered by the action agency.

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(a) Attractant - Swormlure-2 has been developed and is the standard system used by APHIS in all their survey work. (b) Flowering plants have been shown attractive to screwworm flies and demonstrated as the feeding and mating site. (c) The radiation dosage has been reduced 20% and therefore competitiveness improved. (d) Cottage cheese, an expensive ingredient used in the larval diet, has been shown to be unnecessary. It can be replaced with the cheaper dried blood and ^{has} have the potential for a 0.5 million annual saving. (e) The new strain, 009, was developed by ARS and is given credit for the higher levels of sterility found in South Texas.

(2) When is ARS transferring scientists to Mexico?

The time is right to send at least two researchers to Mexico. The transfer of scientists to Mexico will meet the research needs for the new factory and Southern Mexico. Texas and Northern Mexico can be supported better thru the Mission location.

(3) Where in Mexico will researchers be located?

The researchers should be based on the plant site at Tuxtla-Gutierrez. Some research space is needed within the factory, but a separate research facility is also desirable.

(4) When will research be terminated at Mission?

When the Mission Factory closes (when the five Northern Mexico states are free of screwworms) all research activities should be transferred from Mission.

(5) What are the major research efforts currently under way?

(a) The development of Swormlure-2 as an additive control procedure has high priority. Most of the recent problems in screwworm control have resulted from higher natural populations. Swormlure-2 when applied with an insecticide has the potential to drastically reduce the natural population (mostly females are killed). An evaluation of the system has begun in the isolated island situation of Curacao.

(b) Biology and ecology - The screwworm has not been studied in the diverse ecological situations of Mexico. Of particular concern is the behavior of the fly in canyons and higher altitudes. The possibility of biotypes must also be considered.

(c) The effects of various diet ingredients on the performance of adults. In addition, this work will include the evaluation of new protein sources that offer price or supply advantages. Also, methods will be developed to insure continuous quality of reared insects.

(d) Isolate and identify the sex pheromone. The identification of the attractant will greatly aid our entire research program from the standpoint of survey and control. Sex pheromones offer the advantage of species specificity and are usually non-hazardous.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Screwworm Research Laboratory
P. O. Box 986
Mission, Texas 78572

August 6, 1976

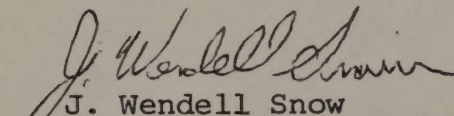
Subject: Curacao

To: E. A. Taylor, Area Director
Subtropical Texas Area

On June 28 four technicians arrived at Mission from Curacao to receive screwworm training. Their names were Gerald Davelaar, Nelson Bicentini, Erno Davelaar and Norwin Dincell. All four are scheduled to work with our research project. On July 19, a fifth member, Mr. Pieter Gorsira arrived for orientation. He will serve as the counterpart for Mr. Tannahill. All returned to Curacao on July 29. The Curacao government has begun an Island wide program to eradicate wild dogs and round up stray goats in anticipation of our program. As you can see, Island officials are very serious about their screwworm problem.

On August 18, Dr. Coppedge, Dr. Broce and Mr. Tannahill are to visit Curacao for several weeks and complete development of details for the Island program. Of principal concern is the determination of the type and number of traps to be used, laboratory space and vehicle situation.

Swormlure-2 has developed nicely, but we are concerned with possible human hazards. The current formulation consists of Swormlure, blood, sugar and an insecticide (in a compressed cake). I will keep you informed of this and other developments.


J. Wendell Snow
Research Leader

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DATE

REFERENCE SLIP

8-13-76

TO Mr. Taylor

Southern Region

March 27, 1974

N EFFICIENCY RESEARCH

RPA: 210

WPU: 11990

h in Southern Mexico

RECEIVED

AUG 18 1976

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ ACTION | ☐ AREA OFFICE |
| ☐ APPROVAL | ☐ WESLACO, TEXAS |
| ☐ AS REQUESTED | ☐ PER PHONE CALL |
| ☐ FOR COMMENT | ☐ RECOMMENDATION |
| ☒ FOR INFORMATION | ☐ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF |
| ☐ INITIALS | ☐ RETURNED |
| ☐ NOTE AND FILE | ☐ SEE ME |
| | ☐ YOUR SIGNATURE |

REMARKS

FY 1975 8.0 \$204,000 actually
SMY 3 Amount \$195,000 Appropriated

uxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico

a plant in Chiapas, Mexico will begin opera-
led production of 300 million sterile flies
lity to provide APHIS with breeding stocks
ntifically tested performance. Very little
ology of the screwworm in the true tropics.
mation about the species as it exists in
of the 20th parallel) be obtained before
program the size of the proposed Mexico
as pathogens, parasites, and predators
as the population limiting mechanisms in
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very limited information regarding the
strains of screwworms in the tropics.

breeding stocks in the as yet unstudied
ill require a minimum of two, preferably
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ng and tested for vigor and mating
. One entomologist (physiologist) will be
s in the southern Mexico release areas.

ed Include:

eworms: Correlate seasonal fluctuations
eries of typical habitats; behavior of
tagging methods; cooperation with NASA
or and predict population fluctuations.

onitoring adult vigor; larval and adult
hythms in screwworms and their modifi-
r role in colonization and mass release;
identify strains and recognize genetic

USDA Agricultural Research Service

Southern Region

701 Loyola Avenue

P. O. Box 53326

New Orleans, Louisiana 70153

FORM AD-514 (8-64)

GPO c48-16-83471-1

FILE: SECTION Research

SUBJECT Screwworm

FOLDER Mexico Res.

ARS Research Increase Proposal, Fiscal Year 1976

Southern Region

March 27, 1974

Program Code: 22-610 PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY RESEARCH

RPA: 210

WPU: 11990

Proposal: ARS Screwworm Research in Southern Mexico

BASE SMY FY 1974 5.0

FY 1975 8.0

\$204,000 actually

FY 1976 Increase Requested

SMY 3

Amount \$195,000

Appropriated

Location: Screwworm Research, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico

Need for Increase: The screwworm plant in Chiapas, Mexico will begin operations in April 1975 with a scheduled production of 300 million sterile flies per week. It is ARS responsibility to provide APHIS with breeding stocks of known genetic quality and scientifically tested performance. Very little is known about the biology and ecology of the screwworm in the true tropics. It is imperative that basic information about the species as it exists in southern Mexico (the region south of the 20th parallel) be obtained before initiating a sterile male release program the size of the proposed Mexico program. Biological factors such as pathogens, parasites, and predators probably replace climatic factors as the population limiting mechanisms in the tropics, but these are largely unstudied by either ARS or Mexican research agencies. Further, we have only very limited information regarding the feasibility of releasing current strains of screwworms in the tropics.

but all at Mission currently

Plan of Work: Development of new breeding stocks in the as yet unstudied environments of southern Mexico will require a minimum of two, preferably bi-lingual, entomologists (ecology). The new field collections will need to be adapted to laboratory rearing and tested for vigor and mating competitiveness in the laboratory. One entomologist (physiologist) will be required to field-test new strains in the southern Mexico release areas.

Research Activities to be Conducted Include:

a. Ecological Studies of Screwworms: Correlate seasonal fluctuations in screwworm populations with a series of typical habitats; behavior of released sterile adults; improved tagging methods; cooperation with NASA on use of remote sensing to monitor and predict population fluctuations.

b. Physiology: Methods of monitoring adult vigor; larval and adult nutrition; attractants; circadian rhythms in screwworms and their modification, endocrine systems and their role in colonization and mass release; use of electrophoretic methods to identify strains and recognize genetic shift.

FILE: SECTION Research

SUBJECT Screwworm

FOLDER Mexico Res.



KIKA

Reports from Washington

By Congressman
E. 'Kika' de la Garza

A FLY FACTORY in which South Texas livestock producers have a massive interest is now open for business in Tuxtla Gutier-

rez, Mexico. The new sterile screwworm fly facility is the keystone of a joint U.S.-Mexican program to eliminate screwworms

from most of Mexico, establish a new barrier zone against reinfestation across the 125-mile-wide Isthmus of Tehauntepec in southern Mexico, and put an end to yearly invasions of the southwestern United States by these destructive livestock pests.

The new plant has the capacity for rearing and sterilizing over 300 million screwworm flies weekly. The flies, in combination with another 200 million reared and sterilized weekly at the Agriculture Department's South Texas facility at Mission, will be released over infested portions of the U.S. and Mexico to mate with native fertile flies. No offspring result from such matings. So the screwworm population drops with each successive generation, with eradication as the end goal.

That goal can be reached in from five to seven years, according to estimates by officials of the Animal and Plant Health

FILE: SECTION Research
SUBJECT Screwworm
FOLDER Mexico Research *EAT*

Inspection Service. The new barrier -- some 1,500 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border -- should effectively block reinfestation since, the scientists say, screwworm flies do not migrate more than 200 miles in search of mates.

Screwworms were eradicated from the south Eastern United States in 1959, and from the Southwest in 1966. A barrier stretching 2,000 miles along the border was set up, utilizing sterile flies from the Mission facility. But this barrier has not been completely effective in preventing reinfestation. The Southwest cannot remain free of screwworms until the pest is wiped out in northern and central Mexico. Opening of the new fly factory is a giant step forward in a plan under way since Mexican and U.S. livestock producers joined forces in the mid-60's to urge their respective governments to start a screwworm eradication program in Mexico. The current program was agreed to in 1972.

+++

ANOTHER PEST posing a threat to our area is the citrus blackfly. The action program conducted in the

and improvement in the rearing procedure. These objectives indicate the need for an expanded research program preparatory to an intensified eradication effort.

Citrus blackfly research at Weslaco is being conducted at this time by three ARS scientists. I have urgently recommended to the Department of Agriculture that the effort there be doubled immediately and sufficient funds be made available to provide adequate facilities and operational support. This action is required to provide the ultimate solution to the spread of this destructive pest. In this connection I am also insisting on all-out control for the safety of the crop.

+++

SOLAR ENERGY for heating and cooling is attracting attention among South Texans, some of whom have written me to find out if they can be included in the demonstration programs being conducted by the federal government. The answer is probably not, at least for the present.

A law passed by Congress in 1974 directs the government to carry out projects to demonstrate

formation or impetus to the developing solar industry as projects by builder-developers and local housing authorities. These larger projects will have greater visibility and can provide more complete information on the solar planning, building and marketing experience.

The number of individuals who have expressed interest in the demonstrations far exceeds the number of grants that can be awarded. Since no equitable way has been established for choosing among the many individually owned homes offered for demonstration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has restricted awards to builder-developer projects with no pre-identified owners. I'm told that any future change in this policy that would open the demonstration program to individual participants will be widely announced. I you would like to be put on HUD's general solar mailing list, write: Solar Energy Program, HUD, Room 8158, Washington, D C, 20410.

+++

STOP THAT DRIP! Here's a tip from the Center for

A FLY FACTORY in which South Texas livestock producers have a massive interest is now open for business in Tuxtla Gutier-

rez, Mexico. The new sterile screwworm fly facility is the keystone of a joint U.S.-Mexican program to eliminate screwworms

stock pests.

The new plant has the capacity for rearing and sterilizing over 300 million screwworm flies weekly. The flies, in combination with another 200 million reared and sterilized weekly at the Agriculture Department's South Texas facility at Mission, will be released over infested portions of the U.S. and Mexico to mate with native fertile flies. No offspring result from such matings. So the screwworm population drops with each successive generation, with eradication as the end goal.

That goal can be reached in from five to seven years, according to estimates by officials of the Animal and Plant Health

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+++

ANOTHER PEST posing a threat to our area is the citrus blackfly. The action program conducted in the Valley to eradicate the blackfly since the spring of 1972 has not succeeded and at present only limited numbers of parasites are being released in the infested areas.

The containment program won't work unless parasites are made available in sufficient numbers. This can be accomplished through an expansion of the Agriculture Research Service facility at Weslaco

conducted at this time by three ARS scientists. I have urgently recommended to the Department of Agriculture that the effort there be doubled immediately and sufficient funds be made available to provide adequate facilities and operational support. This action is required to provide the ultimate solution to the spread of this destructive pest. In this connection I am also insisting on all-out control for the safety of the crop.

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A law passed by Congress in 1974 directs the government to carry out projects to demonstrate practical applications for solar energy to the greatest number of people in the building industry and the public. The act calls for demonstrating solar water heating for homes and industry, solar heating of buildings within three years and solar-powered cooling systems within five years.

Individually owned projects are not expected to provide as much in-

building and marketing experience.

The number of individuals who have expressed interest in the demonstrations far exceeds the number of grants that can be awarded. Since no equitable way has been established for choosing among the many individually owned homes offered for demonstration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has restricted awards to builder-developer projects with no pre-identified owners. I'm told that any future change in this policy that would open the demonstration program to individual participants will be widely announced. If you would like to be put on HUD's general solar mailing list, write: Solar Energy Program, HUD, Room 8158, Washington, D C, 20410.

+++

STOP THAT DRIP! Here's a tip from the Center for Energy and Mineral Resources at Texas A&M: A faucet which leaks just one drop a second will waste about 700 gallons of water a year. And if it's a hot water faucet, fuel is wasted as well as water.

+++

VISITORS FROM HOME: Visiting my office from home this week were Dr. R. M. Jackson, Mr. Ruben Salazar, and Mr. Humberto Zamora, all of Pharr.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Screwworm Research Laboratory

P. O. Box 986

Mission, Texas 78572

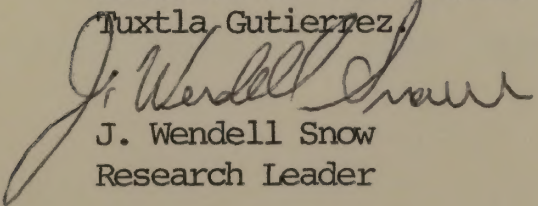
October 26, 1976

Subject: Information for Dr. Cooper

To: E. A. Taylor
Area Director

During 1972 an agreement was signed with Mexico to extend the Screwworm Eradication Program to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and establish a new barrier in this narrowest part of Mexico. The new barrier will be cheaper to maintain than the current 1500 miles U.S.-Mexican border and will provide absolute protection for American livestock from the screwworm. A factory capable of producing 300 million flies per week has already been constructed near the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez and production was initiated last month. The flies produced during the early shakedown stages are being used to eradicate Baja California. Production is scheduled to reach 200 million flies per week by November 1, and releases in coordination with the U.S. program will begin in Northern Mexico.

The expanded screwworm program has greatly increased the need for ARS research. Many new problems, in addition to those of recent years, have surfaced because of the more diverse ecological habitats of Mexico. In FY 1975 an increase in budget (\$173,000) was given to our research laboratory at Mission to place researchers on the factory site at Tuxtla Gutierrez. However, we continued to support the Mexico program from Mission because at the time more could be accomplished thru this arrangement. With the opening of the factory this is no longer true and we need to place 2 researchers on the factory site at Tuxtla Gutierrez by February of next year. I have discussed this with Drs. Williams and Villesenor of the Screwworm Commission and both desire ARS personnel in Mexico. With the placement of 2 researchers in Tuxtla Gutierrez, I believe we can meet the immediate demand for research in both Southern and Northern Mexico. As the program progresses, undoubtedly more research personnel will be needed in Mexico until eventually, probably between 1979 and 1981, the Mission location will be closed with all screwworm research then at Tuxtla Gutierrez.


J. Wendell Snow
Research Leader

cc: D.A. Lindquist

RECEIVED

SECTION Research OCT 27 1976
SUBJECT Screwworm AREA OFFICE
FOLDER Mexico Research WESLACO, TEXAS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
SOUTHERN REGION
SUBTROPICAL TEXAS AREA
P. O. Box 267
Weslaco, Texas 78596

November 3, 1976

Subject: Establishment of a Work Site at
Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico

To: A. W. Cooper
Deputy Administrator, SR

In accordance with your telephone request we are enclosing draft copies of a memo to T. W. Edminster requesting establishment of subject work site and a letter to the Department of State requesting assistance in the establishment of this work site.

E. A. Taylor
mwt

E. A. Taylor
Area Director

Enclosures - 2 (4 pages)

ARS:SR:STA:WFSchwiesow:EATaylor:bo 11-3-76

Subject: Establishment of a Work Site at
Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico

To: T. W. Edminster, Administrator
Agricultural Research Service
Washington, DC

A new screwworm eradication facility dedicated August 25, 1976, at Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State, Mexico, has now been placed into operation. It is expected that production may soon reach 200 million flies per week.

In order to meet the ARS commitment in support of this eradication effort, it is necessary that research scientists be headquartered at the factory site to develop new strains and assist in the proper introduction of these strains into the production schedule and to conduct ecological studies in southern Mexico. It will be much more efficient to accomplish these objectives with researchers on site than to attempt to carry out the support program from the present Mission, Texas, location. Overall supervision of the research program will remain with the Research Leader located at Mission, Texas.

It is planned that one scientist will be transferred to the Mexican location early in the calendar year 1977. A second scientist will be transferred as soon as an individual can be properly oriented and prepared for assignment at the work site. Depending on the program progress, additional scientists may be assigned in the future. These needs will be evaluated on a regular basis and such changes as are necessary proposed.

T. W. Edminster
The Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Page 2

Dear Sir:

In order to implement full research support for the above program, we request approval to establish a work site at Tuxtla Gutierrez. Fiscal year 1975 funds included \$173,000 for establishment of a work site at the factory location. These will not be adequate to fully support two Scientist-Years at the work site. Until additional funds are appropriated for full support, it will be necessary to use some of the funds presently designated for use at Mission to provide full support when two scientists have been moved to Mexico.

The Agricultural Research Service is committed to provide research support for this eradication effort. To give the most efficient carry out our commitment, it is necessary to have two scientists at the rearing facility. These scientists are needed to assure continuous development of viable stock for the mass rearing program and to assist in orderly and efficient introduction of new stocks into the mass rearing production facility. In addition to the two scientific personnel located at this facility, there will be a need for technical assistants. It is anticipated that each scientist will require a minimum of two technicians. These technicians would be Mexican Nationals hired by the Joint United States Commission to Eradicate Screwworms under a reimbursable agreement.

A. W. Cooper
Deputy Administrator

Mr.
The Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. *would appreciate whatever assistance*

An agreement was signed by the governments of the United States and Mexico to develop a screwworm eradication program which would extend from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec northward over the entire northern portion of Mexico and southwestern United States. A new screwworm eradication facility at Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico, was dedicated August 25, 1976, and is now in operation. It is expected that production may soon reach 200 million flies per week.

The Agricultural Research Service is committed to provide research support for this eradication effort. In order to most efficiently carry out our commitment, it is now necessary to locate two research scientists at the rearing facility. These scientists are needed to assure continuous development of viable screwworm strains for the mass rearing program and to assist in orderly and efficient introduction of new strains into the mass rearing production facility. In addition to the two scientific personnel located at this facility, there will be a need for technical assistants. It is anticipated that each scientist will require a minimum of two technicians. These technicians would be Mexican Nationals hired by the Joint Mexico-U.S. Commission to Eradicate Screwworms under a reimburseable arrangement.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SOUTHERN REGION

SUBTROPICAL FRUIT AREA

P. O. Box 247

Mexico, Texas 78401

Mr.

Page 2

We would appreciate whatever assistance and guidance you may be able to give in implementing this plan to station two scientists at Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico. Planned date of transfer of the first scientist is about January 15, 1977.

To:

A. W. Cooper

Sincerely, Deputy Administrator, ARS

In accordance with your telephone request, we are enclosing draft copies of a memo to T. W. Edminster regarding a request for subject work site and a request for assistance in the establishment of this site.

T. W. Edminster
Administrator

E. A. Taylor
11/3/76

E. A. Taylor
Area Director

Enclosures - 2 (4 pages)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
SOUTHERN REGION
SUBTROPICAL TEXAS AREA
P. O. Box 267
Weslaco, Texas 78596

November 3, 1976

Subject: Establishment of a Work Site at
Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico

To: A. W. Cooper
Deputy Administrator, SR

In accordance with your telephone request we are enclosing draft copies of a memo to T. W. Edminster requesting establishment of subject work site and a letter to the Department of State requesting assistance in the establishment of this work site.

E. A. Taylor
mswts.

E. A. Taylor
Area Director

Enclosures - 2 (4 pages)

REFERENCE SLIP

11/19/76

TO

E. A. Taylor

EAT

WFS

Area Director

RECEIVED

☐ ACTION

NOV 23 1976

☐ NOTE AND RETURN☐ APPROVALAREA OFFICE
WESLACO, TEXAS☐ PER PHONE CALL☐ AS REQUESTED☐ RECOMMENDATION☐ FOR COMMENT☐ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF☐ FOR INFORMATION☐ RETURNED☐ INITIALS☐ SEE ME☐ NOTE AND FILE☐ YOUR SIGNATURE

REMARKS

I sent this telex to Mexico

City on November 18. Dr. Williams

needed it to apply some pressure

to Dr. Villasenor. He suggested

we offer some per diem assistance.

I feel if Dr. Villasenor will

pursue the matter it will make a

real difference in our research

effort in Northern Mexico.

FROM J. Wendell Snow, Res Leader
SCREWORM RESEARCH LABORATORY
P. O. BOX 986 MOORE AIR BASE
MISSION, TEXAS 78572

To:

From:

Lucy

✓ EAT *eat*
✓ WFS *wfs.*

W. M. Bruce, AD, Tifton, GA

G. R. Burns, AD, Raleigh, NC

D. F. Davis, AD, Gainesville, FL

M. E. Carter, AD, SRRC

J. Rex Johnston, AD, College Station, TX

C. H. H. Neufeld, AD, Athens, GA

C. D. Ranney, AD, Starkville, MS

E. B. Knipling, AD, Stoneville, MS

☒ E. A. Taylor, AD, Weslaco, TX

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1976

AREA OFFICE
WESLACO, TEXAS

For: ☐ ACTION ☒ INFORMATION

*I requested a copy of signed letter to Dept. of State
he sent to you.*

vision of the research program will remain with the
Leader located at Mission, Texas.

It is planned that one scientist will be transferred to the Mexican location early in the calendar year 1977. A second scientist will be transferred as soon as an individual can be properly oriented and prepared for assignment at the work site. Depending on the program progress, additional scientists may be assigned in the future. These needs will be evaluated on a regular basis and such changes as are necessary proposed.

In order to implement full research support for the above program, we request approval to establish a work site at Tuxtla Gutierrez. Fiscal year 1975 funds included \$173,000 for establishment of a work site at the factory location. This amount is not adequate for 2 SY in Mexico, but some funds from Mission, Texas, will be used to supplement the Mexico program.

I have talked with Mr. Kenneth Haines, IPD, about the establishment of a work site rather than a location, and

FILE: SECTION Research
SUBJECT Screwworm
FOLDER Mexico Research

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURESOUTHERN REGION
OFFICE OF DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

November 8, 1976

Subject: Establishment of a Work Site at Tuxtla
Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico

To: T. W. Edminster, Administrator, ARS

A new screwworm eradication facility dedicated August 25, 1976, at Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State, Mexico, has now been placed into operation. It is expected that production may soon reach 200 million flies per week.

In order to meet the ARS commitment in support of this eradication effort, it is necessary that research scientists be headquartered at the factory site to develop new strains and assist in the proper introduction of these strains into the production schedule and to conduct ecological studies in southern Mexico. It will be much more efficient to accomplish these objectives with researchers on site than to attempt to carry out the support program from the present Mission, Texas, location. Overall supervision of the research program will remain with the Research Leader located at Mission, Texas.

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FILE: SECTION Research
SUBJECT Screwworm
FOUNDER Mexico Research

T. W. Edminster

2

since these programs will require movement of personnel and material back and forth, he agreed that a work site would be desirable.

Enclosed is a letter to the State Department which we are asking Mr. Haines to review for your signature.

A.W. Cooper

A. W. Cooper
Deputy Administrator

Enclosure

cc:

Kenneth Haines, IPD *(my copy draft ltr to Dept. of State)*
Hyattsville, MD

Proposed Management ObjectivesScrewworm Eradication Program

1. Maintain effectiveness of sterile screwflies at a minimum of 75 % (or some other percent). The formula for determining the effectiveness follows:

$$\frac{\text{STERILE EGG MASSES}^*}{\text{FERTILE EGG MASSES}^{**}} \times \frac{\text{NATIVE FLIES}^{**} \times 100}{\text{STERILE FLIES}^{**}} = \text{EFFECTIVENESS \%}$$

2. Maintain ratio of sterile screwflies to native screwflies at a minimum of 20-1 (or other other ratio) respectively.
(Is this possible?)
3. Maintain ratio of sterile egg masses to fertile egg masses at a minimum of 300:1 (or some other 1).

* Data from test pens and/or field collections

** Data from traps in area of test pens. How much trapping and how much test pen activity would be required to actually do this? Would this require substantial work in excess of what should be done anyway?

Justifications* for Position Changes
(Proposed within ensuing 18 months)

MODE

1. Original source, authority and/or motivation for the proposal.
2. Titles of positions involved.
3. Dates, including those beyond country of residence; identification of foreign officials who will normally be dealt with.
4. Date of establishment or proposed establishment, and expected duration; proposed or anticipated date of disestablishment of position(s).
5. Nature of administrative support, perquisites, titles, expected from diplomatic mission.
6. Anticipated reaction of host government(s) to proposed establishment or elimination of position(s).
7. Identification of any off-set position(s) by location, organization and title.
8. The disposition of functions of positions to be eliminated, whether by off-set or not, shall be explained.
9. Indication of interagency consultations/coordination already accomplished, including names of principal individuals involved. (In the event a chief of mission is recommending elimination of a position or function, full discussion should be held in-country with the concerned agency's representative before formal recommendation is submitted.)

* To be provided by proposal initiator, e.g., agency or Diplomatic Mission Chief.

Our receiving number is FTB 436-8567

F. E. White
Special Assistant to
the Director

Rec'd via Telex
from 11-19-76
White IPD
2:30 PM

SCREWORM ERADICATION PROJECT

11-23-76

FROM Mr. HOLCOMB

1. Why hasn't the screwworm already been eradicated from the United States?
2. Are there fewer cases of screwworm now than there were when the program began? If less, what per cent reduction?
3. What are the historical correlations between number of sterile flies released and resultant number of cases found? Please provide some historical data.
4. What are current annual losses due to screwworm?
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21. How much would it cost to release flies at 1.25 mile intervals rather than 5 mile intervals? If you were to get no more funds, how many flies could be released at 1.25 mile intervals? Or at 2.5 mile intervals?

100-1000
 100-1000
 100-1000
 100-1000

William O. Holcombe
Program Analyst

Dr. Hourrigan has suggested, and I concur, that it would be a real advantage if both you and Tom would review the attached copy of the Lincoln-Eden Report prior to this meeting. This report was prepared at the specific direction of the Subcommittee on Agriculture and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives.

K. R. Brown

1 Attachment

Dr. Peacock
Dr. Morrison

Enclave 3

Houmigan
Schubert
Klinghorn
Knowles

Williams

Spoo

Departmental Review of U.S.-Mexico Screwworm Program

November 15, 1976

Files

Mr. William O. Holcombe, QMW, called to advise that Assistant Secretary Feltner has requested that he conduct an in-depth review of the U.S.-Mexico Screwworm Program. Bill advised that a Mr. Tom Westlund, a trainee with QMW, has been assigned to work with him on this program review.

It is my understanding that Bill and Tom met with ARS representatives (Dr. D. A. Lindquist, Dr. R. C. Fish, and others) last week to review ARS activities associated with the Screwworm Program. Some of the subjects discussed were as follows:

1. Is there adequate technology to eradicate the screwworm fly in Mexico?
2. How effective is the fly we rear in competing with the native fly?
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4. How do we determine the incidence of screwworm outbreaks in U.S. and Mexico?
5. Is this truly an accurate measure?

Endorse LF

6. What specific areas of the program do we anticipate increased costs over the next five years and why? (We anticipate increased salaries and costs of supplies due to the current rate of inflation in Mexico which is 18% per year.)

I advised Bill that I would try to arrange a meeting with the Hyattsville staff. I seriously doubted, however, if that could have been done before the week of November 22, 1976, as the majority of the Hyattsville staff are involved in the USANA meetings at Miami, Florida.

I talked with Drs. Wonnack and Hourrigan, and a meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, November 23, 1976, at 10:00 a.m. in Dr. Hourrigan's office.

Bill and Tom, ORE, are interested in traveling to Mexico City and Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico. I advised them not to make any specific arrangements until after they meet with Drs. Hourrigan and Wonnack and possibly Dr. Hejl.

R. I. Brown
Assistant to Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

cc:

Dr. Peacock
— Dr. Hourrigan
Dr. Wonnack
Dr. Hejl

APHIS:OA:RIBrown:jld:ext.76631:11-15-76

ARS FACSIMILE MESSAGE

TO: F. E. White, Spec Asst to Director
IPD, Hyattsville, MD

FROM: E. A. Taylor, AD
SUBTROPICAL TEXAS AREA, SR
P O Box 267; Weslaco, TX 78596

PAGES: 1 DATE: 11-24-76

NOTE: Job descriptions following
in mail.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DATE

REFERENCE SLIP

11-24-76

TO

F. E. White
Special Assistant to Director
IPD, ARS-USDA
Rm 464, Federal Bldg.
6505 Bellcrest Rd.
Hyattsville, MD 20782

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ ACTION | ☐ NOTE AND RETURN |
| ☐ APPROVAL | ☐ PER PHONE CALL |
| ☐ AS REQUESTED | ☐ RECOMMENDATION |
| ☐ FOR COMMENT | ☐ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF |
| ☐ FOR INFORMATION | ☐ RETURNED |
| ☐ INITIALS | ☐ SEE ME |
| ☐ NOTE AND FILE | ☐ YOUR SIGNATURE |

CONFIRMING telecopier message

REMARKS

sent to you today. "Justification
for Personnel in Mexico" plus
job descriptions.

Attch: 6 pages

FROM

Edgar A. Taylor
AREA DIRECTOR
SOUTHERN REGION SUBTROPICAL TEXAS AREA
P. O. BOX 267, WESLACO, TEXAS 78596

*Copy
11-30-76
B.*

Justification for Personnel in Mexico

1. J. Wendell Snow, Screwworm Research Laboratory, to provide the necessary research support for the joint Mexico-American Screwworm Commission to eradicate the screwworm from most of Mexico to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.
2. Research Entomologists (2).
3. Duties are to provide laboratory and field research as required to support the eradication of the screwworm from Mexico and the establishing of a barrier in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Job descriptions for both positions are attached. Mexican personnel attached to the screwworm commission will serve as the normal foreign contact. The commission is headed by Dr. Marco Villasenor, Director, Comision Mexico-Americana para la Erradicacion del Gusano Barrenador, and Dr. Don Williams, Co-Director.
4. January 15, 1977, is the desirable initial date and research personnel will probably remain in Mexico as long as there is a screwworm program (indefinitely).
5. Our personnel stationed in Mexico will be supported by the Mission, Texas, location, but we also request identical diplomatic privileges as those available to APHIS personnel stationed in Mexico on screwworm assignments.
6. The officials of the screwworm commission suggested and are actively seeking ARS personnel at the factory site in Tuxtla Gutierrez.
7. No information available.
8. No information available.
9. ARS officials including Dr. A. W. Cooper, Deputy Administrator, Southern Region, Dr. D. A. Lindquist, Staff Scientist, Livestock and Veterinary Sciences, National Program Staff, Mr. E. A. Taylor, Area Director, Subtropical Texas Area, and Dr. J. Wendell Snow, Research Leader, Screwworm Research Laboratory, have conferred with the commission directors (Drs. Villasenor and Williams) and other members of the commission from both delegations. While the specific details of the arrangement are not settled, all parties agree that research is required by the commission and must be supported by the placement of ARS personnel in Tuxtla Gutierrez. The commission wants personnel moved to Mexico as soon as possible.

M O D E

Justifications* for Position Changes
(Proposed within ensuing 18 months)

1. Original source, authority and/or motivation for the proposal.
2. Titles of positions involved.
3. Duties, including those beyond country of residence; identification of foreign officials who will normally be dealt with.
4. Date of establishment or proposed establishment, and expected duration; proposed or anticipated date of disestablishment of position(s).
5. Nature of administrative support, perquisites, titles, expected from diplomatic mission.
6. Anticipated reaction of host government(s) to proposed establishment or elimination of position(s).
7. Identification of any off-set position(s) by location, organization and title.
8. The disposition of functions of positions to be eliminated, whether by off-set or not, shall be explained.
9. Indication of interagency consultations/coordination already accomplished, including names of principal individuals involved. (In the event a chief of mission is recommending elimination of a position or function, full discussion should be held in-country with the concerned agency's representative before formal recommendation is submitted.)

* To be provided by proposal initiator, e.g., agency or Diplomatic Mission Chief.

Our receiving number is FTS 436-8567
8090

F. E. White
Special Assistant to
the Director

(Received via TELECOPIER 11-19-76)

RECRUIT
RESEARCH ENTOMOLOGIST

1. Research Assignment

Assignment is part of a research program directly supporting the Joint U.S.-Mexico Screwworm Eradication Program. The incumbent will be responsible for planning and conducting research, evaluation and interpretation of data and publishing research results on the ecology and behavior of screwworm flies in Mexico. The specific objectives of the incumbent's research will be (1) to evaluate the effectiveness of different screwworm fly attractants, (2) to determine the most efficient method of detecting native screwworm flies in Mexico, and (3) to investigate the dispersal and behavioral patterns of native and released screwworm flies in a diversity of environments.

The ultimate success of eradicating screwworms from the U.S. is highly dependent upon the success of the Mexico program. Knowledge of possible changes in the behavior of screwworm flies in relation to the highly seasonal changes in climate or in the different environments of Mexico will be important for the best implementation of the sterile male technique. The incumbent's research program will be designed to enhance this knowledge.

This position requires a fundamental knowledge of entomology, ecology and insect behavior. After 3-12 months of specialized training (the use of attractants, traps, etc.) at the Screwworm Research Laboratory at Mission, Texas, the incumbent will be transferred to a satellite laboratory at Tuxtla-Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico. The position requires fluency in Spanish or a willingness to learn Spanish.

2. Supervision Received

Incumbent will function under the Research Leader while assigned to Mission, Texas. Upon reassignment to Mexico, the incumbent will be under the general supervision of the entomologist-in-charge, but will have considerable latitude in planning and conducting research. The incumbent will have the authority to discuss his research with other scientists and to present scientific papers that have received Area Director approval.

3. Supervisory and Team Leadership

The incumbent will cooperate with project leaders at the Mission laboratory on work related to the overall screwworm research program. In Mexico, the incumbent will cooperate closely with U.S. and Mexican scientists and technicians who represent the Joint U.S.-Mexico Commission. One or more research technicians may be supervised by the incumbent during the research.

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76
a.m.
Hodge

9/29/76 - EAT
Submitted for eval.

1

CHANDLER J. WHITTEN
Research Entomologist, GS-11
Screwworm Research Laboratory
Mission, Texas

Supervisor: J. W. Snow
Peer Group IX: Entomology

supp
76
a.m.
Lindgren

1 Research Assignment:

The incumbent serves as a Research Entomologist with the Screwworm Research Laboratory, Mission, Texas. The assignment covers two general areas of responsibility: (1) conducting research on the genetics and physiology of the screwworm fly as it relates to the quality of laboratory and mass-reared insects, and (2) coordinating and conducting ARS field research activities that involve the screwworm in Mexico. The incumbent is responsible for the determination of specific research needs, the conduction of the research, and the analysis and publication of data.

The general objective of (1) is: (a) to determine the best method for introducing genetic material into research populations; (b) to determine the best method for incorporating selected genetic material into factory production practices; (c) to determine the feasibility of using isoenzyme techniques as a measurement of screwworm fly quality; and (d) to develop standards to insure the production of a competitive fly for the eradication program. This phase of the research program is conducted primarily in the laboratory at Mission, Texas, in cooperation with other ARS scientists and APHIS production personnel.

The objective of (2) is to provide research support for the Joint US-Mexico Commission for the Eradication of the Screwworm. The incumbent's assignment is to plan and conduct all field tests in Mexico and to coordinate Mexico-related laboratory studies in Mission. The objectives of the incumbent's assignment are to investigate the behavior and genetics of screwworm flies among populations in different ecological areas in Mexico and to evaluate methods of detecting native screwworm flies in Mexico.

The ultimate success of eradicating screwworms from the US is highly dependent upon the success of the Mexico program. Both programs are dependent upon the release of irradiated males which can successfully compete with native males under all ecological conditions. The research program of the incumbent is designed to evaluate the possibility of the existence of subpopulations or biotypes in differing geographical areas and to develop a method of incorporating and maintaining the genetic quality necessary to mass produce a competitive insect.

2 Supervision Received:

The incumbent is the project leader for ARS research in Mexico. He functions under the general supervision of the Research Leader at

Mission, but has considerable latitude in planning and conducting research and evaluating results. For field studies in Mexico, the incumbent functions under a broad assignment and conducts research on his own judgment and initiative as problems arise because communication is difficult between field stations in Mexico and the laboratory in Mission. He discusses and plans ARS research in Mexico with officials of the US-Mexico program. Manuscripts and reports describing results of research are reviewed in final form by the Research Leader.

3 Supervisory and Team Leadership:

The incumbent, as project leader for ARS screwworm research in Mexico, exercises leadership of a team of ARS scientists (2-4, depending on the nature of the particular test) involved in projects in Mexico. He assists in selecting the problem, and then he plans the research approach and designs methods or procedures which are incorporated into written agreements made with the Commission prior to the initiation of the tests. He supervises the execution of the tests covered by the research agreements (2-4 technicians). Ability to converse in Spanish with Mexican nationals is essential and good judgment and diplomacy are required for effective cooperation with Mexican associates as well as with APHIS representatives.

Hystisville, Maryland 20782

Departmental Review of U.S.-Mexico
Screwworm Program and Screwworm
Management by Objectives Items

M. L. Meadows
Area Veterinarian in Charge
Mission, TX

C
O
P
Y

I am enclosing the following material:

1. Proposed Management Objectives, dated November 18, 1976, from Mr. William Holcombe.
2. List of 21 questions, dated November 23, 1976, from Mr. Holcombe.
3. Dr. R. I. Brown's memorandum, dated November 17, 1976, to Mr. Holcombe.
4. Dr. R. I. Brown's memorandum, dated November 15, 1976, to files.

On November 23, 1976, Dr. Hourigan, Dr. Seal, and I met with Mr. Holcombe, Mr. Westland, and Mr. Hurley. I believe we had a useful discussion and a better understanding of both the GNF's strong desire to develop management objectives, which include a measurement of the effectiveness of our sterile fly, and the staff, and my strong desire to have only objectives which are of practical benefit to each program level and do not create an extra workload not commensurate with the benefits expected.

Mr. Holcombe agreed to not impose the Proposed Management objectives (Enclosure 1) until we have had an opportunity to study, make comments, or suggest alternatives.

We agreed that we (program activity) would study this proposal carefully and either suggest such changes as we think necessary and appropriate, or as an alternative, present a different formula or procedures for evaluation of sterile fly effectiveness. I would appreciate receiving your proposals in this regard.

I would also appreciate your responding to the enclosed 21 questions (Enclosure 2). You won't need to respond to question 13, as we have sent a copy of the Joint Agreement to Mr. Holcombe.

*Rec'd via Hurley
11-30-76
11 a.m.
from
Lindgren*

M. E. Meadows

2

2
C
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Y

Mr. Holcombe hopes to attend the next Screwworm Technical Meeting to get a feel for the program. He also hopes to learn what is actually going on now in respect to research, methods and development, and other efforts to evaluate the sterile fly and other aspects of the screwworm program.

In the meantime, I would appreciate your advising me by December 15, if possible, in regard to enclosures 1 and 2. Hopefully, we can then finalize them shortly after the next Technical Meeting, perhaps the day following that meeting.

We are sending Dr. Williams a courtesy copy so that he may have an opportunity for input.

Dr. Don Lindquist is also receiving a copy, as he is very much interested in this matter.

J. H. Wonnack
Regional Director - South Central
Veterinary Services

4 Enclosures

cc:

V. Beal, VS

W. O. Holcombe, ONF (w/copy Joint Agreement)

D. L. Williams, VS

D. Lindquist, ARS

APHIS:VS:JLHourrigan:kac:11/23/76:ext.68231

Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

Departmental Review of U.S.-Mexico
Screwworm Program and Screwworm
Management by Objectives Items

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Area Veterinarian in Charge
Mission, TX

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SECTION Research
SUBJECT Screwworm
FOLDER Mexico research

copy for
JW Brown
12-2-76
B.

Rec'd via telephone
11-30-76
11 a.m.
from
Lindquist

M. E. Meadows

2

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Veterinary Services

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W. O. Holcombe, OMF (w/copy Joint Agreement)

D. L. Williams, VS

D. Lindquist, ARS

APHIS:VS:JLHourrigan:kac:11/23/76:ext.68231

11/18/76

Proposed Management Objectives

Screwworm Eradication Program

1. Maintain effectiveness of sterile screwflies at a minimum of 75 % (or some other percent). The formula for determining the effectiveness follows:

$$\frac{\text{STERILE EGG MASSES}^*}{\text{FERTILE EGG MASSES}^{**}} \times \frac{\text{NATIVE FLIES}^{**} \times 100}{\text{STERILE FLIES}^{**}} = \text{EFFECTIVENESS \%}$$

2. Maintain ratio of sterile screwflies to native screwflies at a minimum of 20-1 (or other other ratio) respectively.
(Is this possible?)
3. Maintain ratio of sterile egg masses to fertile egg masses at a minimum of 75% (or some other %).

* Data from test pens and/or field collections

** Data from traps in area of test pens. How much trapping and how much test pen activity would be required to actually do this? Would this require substantial work in excess of what should be done anyway?

SCREWORM ERADICATION PROJECT

11-23-76
FROM Mr. HOLCOMB

1. Why hasn't the screwworm already been eradicated from the United States?
2. Are there fewer cases of screwworm now than there were when the program began? If less, what per cent reduction?
3. What are the historical correlations between number of sterile flies released and resultant number of cases found? Please provide some historical data.
4. What are current annual losses due to screwworm?
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6

Howe and
S. Robert
H. H. H. H.
Knowles

Williams
C. J. C.

OMF Review of U.S.-Mexico
Screwworm Eradication Program

William O. Holcombe
Program Analyst

November 17, 1976

Per our telephone conversation earlier today, arrangements have been made for you and Tom Westlund to meet with Dr. Hourrigan on Tuesday, November 23, 1976, at 10 a.m. in Room 734, FCB #1, Hyattsville, Maryland.

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Please give me a call if you have any questions.

E. I. Brown

E. I. Brown
Assistant to Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

1 Attachment

cc:
Dr. Pascock
✓ Dr. Hourrigan

Enclosure 3

7
Houderman
Schubert
Klingenberg
Knowles

Williams

Spoo

Departmental Review of U.S.-Mexico Screwworm Program

Files

November 15, 1976

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Endorse LF

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R. I. Brown
Assistant to Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

cc:

Dr. Peacock

— Dr. Hourrigan

Dr. Wonnack

Dr. Hejl

APHIS:OA:RIBrown:jld:ext.76631:11-15-76

File

HISTORY OF THE SCREWORM RESEARCH LABORATORY

R. C. Bushland

The USDA has monopolized screwworm research since investigations began at the Southern Field Crops Laboratory in Dallas in 1913. In the 1920's screwworm research was expanded by the establishment of a special laboratory at Uvalde. In 1937 most of the Dallas screwworm research was transferred to Menard. In 1947 all of the livestock insects research (except for Oregon) was consolidated at Kerrville.

In FY 1962, the Kerrville Laboratory retained a budget of \$209,000 for its general program and had a new appropriation of \$200,000 for screwworm research in support of the forthcoming Southwestern Screwworm Eradication Program.

With that new budget, seven senior scientists were assigned to screwworm research. The areas of research and responsible scientists were as follows:

1. Mating Competitiveness (Baumhover)
2. Genetics and Radiation Biology (LaChance)
3. Ecology (Hightower)
4. Attractants (Fletcher)
5. Chemosterilants (Crystal)
6. Cytological Effects of Radiation and Chemicals (Riemann)
7. Larval Nutrition (Gingrich)

When the screwworm eradication plant was opened at Mission in July, 1962, the screwworm research team was transferred to the present location. This unit functioned as a sublaboratory of Kerrville until the reorganization of ARS.

Some of the studies that were initiated in FY 1962 have been completed or are no longer urgent in the light of today's knowledge, but others have grown in complexity and importance. So overall needs for screwworm research are greater than ever.

We have a unique responsibility in screwworm research. When one considers research on other insects of similar economic importance--whether those insects affect man, animals or crops--it is evident that the USDA is engaged

FILE: SECTION _____
SUBJECT _____
FOLDER _____

in research rivalry with universities, agricultural experiment stations, or industrial laboratories. But screwworm research is different--since 1913, we have done it all. Practically everything that is known about screwworm biology and control is a result of USDA research. Because we have had exclusive responsibility for screwworm research for 60 years, we have a special obligation to continue in our traditional position of leadership.

